6:Spate N-4 (no date)1954 AW1 India
Kashmir Avl

Other Occupations

Supplementary to agriculture proper are sericulture and pastoralism. 231
By 1900 the former activity was decrepit as well as ancient, but the introduction of modern filatures has led to a wide extension of mulberry culture, though not enough cocoons are produced to keep the filatures at Srinagar and Jammu and the weaving factory at Srinagar working to capacity. There is also, of course, a good deal of hand-loom weaving of silk, cotton, and wool; silk is a major export.

The main pastoral activity is sheep-rearing; this is transhumant, the sheep live in winter beneath the human dwellings—adding to their warmth—and in summer are taken by professional shepherds to the high pastures above the tree-line; this is the *marg* common in place-names and strictly equivalent to the Swiss *alp*. Winter feed is willow and dried flag 236
(Iris) leaves. After agriculture, wool production is probably the chief means of livelihood in Kashmir, employing full- or part-time some 300,000 people. The famous Cashmere shawl industry died a languishing death in the 1870s, but there is naturally a large cottage production of woollen clothing, blankets, and rugs; felting is important also, and Srinagar has a large 316
woollens factory. Mineral exploitation is insignificant, though a start has been made on the commercial exploitation of lignite from some of the 549
karewas, which has been used locally by the villagers for years. A minor industry of interest is the manufacture of cricket bats and so on from the willows. But perhaps the most lucrative of all trades—in normal times—is 484
the exploitation of tourists.

Srinagar

For this, of course, the capital Srinagar (207,787) is the centre: "quaint" 369
in itself, with its carved wooden architecture, immediately surrounded by the beautiful Mogul gardens and magnificent lake and river scenery, central for hunting and mountaineering, it is—on the surface—one of the most attractive cities in all Asia. But it has always been liable to fire and to flood, at times to earthquake; its site obviously leaves much to be desired from a sanitary point of view.[17] Nor, if report be true, are its citizens any more virtuous, in any direction, than they need be.

The factories of Srinagar are largely due to state enterprise, and make 498
it the only industrial centre of the slightest note in Kashmir. But craft [655]
industries are more important. Neglecting the obvious tourist lines—silver and copper work, wood-carving, papier-mâché and lacquer—the leading crafts are probably carpet-weaving and leather work: leather gear of various sorts is essential to transport in the mountains, and the products

[17] In the 1892 cholera epidemic 600 people died in one day "and the only shops which remained open were those of the sellers of white cloth for winding sheets." The total mortality was 5781 of a population around 120,000 (*Gazetteer*, 119).